



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

930 Custer Avenue West
Helena, MT 59620

December 7, 1998

TO: Governor's Office, Julie Lapeyre, Room 204, State Capitol, P.O. Box 200801, Helena, MT 59620-0801
Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Room 106, P.O. Box 201704, Helena, MT 59620
Dept. Environmental Quality, Metcalf Building, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Director's Office

Wildlife Division

Enforcement Division-Karen Zackheim

Legal Unit- Jack Lynch

Dennis Flath

FWP Commissioners

MT Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, P.O. Box 201202 Helena, MT 59620-1202

MT State Parks Association, P.O. Box 699, Billings, MT 59103

MT State Library, 1515 E. Sixth Ave. P.O. Box 201800, Helena, MT 59620

James Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, P.O. Box 1184, Helena, MT 59624

Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624

George Ochenski, P.O. Box 689, Helena, MT 59624

Broadwater County Commissioners, Courthouse, Townsend, MT 59644

MT Department of Livestock, Luella Schultz, Animal Health Division, POB 202001, Helena, MT 59620-2001

Jerry DiMarco, P.O. Box 1571, Bozeman, MT 59771

MT Wildlife Federation, P.O. Box 1175, Helena, MT 59624

Wayne Hurst, P.O. Box 728, Libby, MT 59923

Glen Hockett, 745 Doane Road, Bozeman, MT 59715

Skyline Sportsman's Assoc., Box 173, Butte, MT 59701

Anaconda Sportsman's Club, #2 Cherry, Anaconda, MT 59711

Jefferson Valley Sportsman's Assoc., POB 663, Whitehall, MT 59759

Prickly Pear Sportsman's Assoc., 1721 Virginia Dale St., Helena, MT 59601

Senator Duane Grimes, #4 Hole in the Wall Rd, Clancy, MT 59634

Representative Gay Ann Malsolo, 20 Buck Dr., Townsend, MT 59644

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) has completed its review of the application for relicensing of the **Hahn Shooting Preserve** with a 340 acre expansion onto deeded and leased lands adjacent to the ranch.

Based on the findings of the EA that established no significant impacts, an EIS is not required and it is my decision to approve the permit for the Hahn Shooting Preserve with the expansion.

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

Michael Korn
Helena Area Coordinator

Broadwater

DECISION NOTICE
HAHN SHOOTING PRESERVE EXPANSION
PREPARED BY MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS
DECEMBER 7, 1998

PROPOSAL

On September 16, 1998, John Hahn on behalf of the Hahn Ranch made written application to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks for an 340 acre expansion of their existing upland bird shooting preserve to be located approximately 2 miles south of Townsend, Montana in the Elkhorn Mountains. The property is located in Broadwater County, and includes the existing 532 acre shooting preserve on Sections 7,8, 17, T6N, R2E. Additionally the proposed 340 acres across Highway 287 on the SW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 and the NE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 8, T6N, R2E and the NW 1/4 and the SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 9, T6N, R2E.. The proposal is to release artificially propagated pheasants, chukar partridges and quail daily prior to the arrival of hunters. A minimum of 100 pheasants, 100 chukar partridge and 50 Northern Bobwhite (quail) annually will be stocked. It is proposed to open the additional 340 acres commercially during the regular, FWP commission-established upland bird and pheasant seasons.

MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (MEPA) PROCESS

The proposal was outlined in an Environmental Assessment (EA) by FWP in compliance the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). FWP is required to assess the impacts to the human and natural environment. The EA was available for public comment from October 22 through November 23, 1998. A public notice of the application appeared in both the Helena Independent Record and the Townsend Star newspaper's Legal Notices section.

ISSUES RAISED IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The Checklist EA listed the issues. No major impacts are known to occur if the permit is issued.

GENERAL SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

One written comment was received from the State Historic Preservation Office. The SHPO indicated that since no disturbance of the ground was proposed to take place in this expansion, there is la low likelihood of unknown or unrecorded cultural properties being affected.

DECISION

Utilizing the EA and public comment, a decision must be rendered by FWP which addresses the concerns and issues identified for this proposed shooting preserve.

Based on the findings of the EA that established no significant impacts, an EIS is not required and it is my decision to approve the permit for the Hahn Shooting Preserve with the expansion.



Michael Korn
Helena Area Coordinator
Helena, MT 59620
December 7, 1998

1/96

1/22/99

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
1420 E 6th Ave, PO Box 200701 Helena, MT 59620-0701
(406) 444-2452

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

Fur Farm, Game Bird Farm, Zoo/Menagerie, Shooting Preserve

PART 1. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

Project Title: Hahn Game Bird Farm

Application Date: December 7, 1998

Name, Address and Phone Number: John Hahn (Hahn Ranch), 7996 Hwy 287, Townsend, MT 59644 (406) 266-3717

Project Location: Hahn Ranch in Broadwater County two miles south of Townsend Montana on Hwy. 287. NW 3, SW 3 & NW 3, SE1/4, Sec. 8, T6N, R2E. Current detailed map with pen locations is attached to application.

Description of Project: Currently there is an approved 872 acre shooting preserve on the Hahn Ranch. The applicant proposes to also have a game bird farm to raise birds for the above shooting preserve. The shooting preserve operation proposes to stock a minimum of 100 pheasants, 100 chukar partridge, and 50 Northern Bobwhite (quail). The game bird farm portion of the operation would purchase chicks for the 3 species and raise them to releasable age for the shooting preserve.

The applicant proposes to purchase artificially propagated chicks from two licensed hatcheries/game farms within the state of Montana. Big Sky Game Birds in Radersburg, MT as a source of quail and Rocky Mountain Hatchery in Hamilton, MT as a source for the pheasants and chukars.

The operation has 4 pens to raise and hold birds. Pen #1 is ~100=x117=, designated for Chukar Partridge and is located just north of the farmstead. The structure sides and entire perimeter were constructed from 4=x8= straw bales (big bales). Walls are 2 bales high (8=) with a third bale holding down a 1@ nylon top mesh. Top mesh is supported by ~15= center poles. See attached diagram. The gate is 4=x7= plywood. The bottom side is 2@x4@ with 1@ buried chicken wire.

Pheasant pens #1, #2, and the quail pen are all connected sharing interior walls and with similar construction throughout. Pheasant pens #1 & #2 are each ~50=x147. They both have 6=x8= framed gates constructed of 2@x4@ covered with 1@ chicken wire. The sides are 2@x4@ with 1@ buried chicken wire. The quail pen is 45=x100= with a solid plywood gate. Exterior of these 3 pens are composed of 1@ chicken wire buried 2= in gravel and 6= tall. Posts are 6=X8@

Broadwater

and are spaced 12" apart. The top is 1" nylon mesh supported by 15" center poles. Dividing wall between the pheasant pens is 1" square plastic mesh.

Other groups or agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction: A Department of Agriculture import permit is required if birds are shipped from out-of-state.

PART 2. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Table 1. Potential impact on physical environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below Or On Attached Pages
1. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
2. Terrestrial or aquatic life and/or habitats			X			2.1
3. Introduction of new species into an area			X			3.1
4. Vegetation cover, quantity & quality				X		
5. Water quality, quantity & distribution (surface or groundwater)				X		
6. Existing water right or reservation				X		
7. Geology & soil quality, stability & moisture				X		
8. Air quality or objectionable odors				X		
9. Historical & archaeological sites				X		9.1
10. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy				X		
11. Aesthetics				X		

Comments

(A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

2.1 There is a limited potential for disease transmission from artificially propagated birds to wild

birds, although the applicant is purchasing only from certified disease free stock. There is a limited potential for artificially stocked birds breeding with wild birds altering the gene pool.

3.1 Wild Northern Bobwhite Quail are beyond their northern and western ranges and not normally found in Montana. Chukar partridge habitat does not exist on lands involved with the Hahn Shooting Preserve. However habitat does exist adjacent to the property in the Limestone Hills.

Although stocked on other game bird farms within the state there is a very limited potential of establishment of viable wild populations and there are unknown impacts if viable wild populations become established.

9.1 There are no plans for significant ground disturbance associated with this action. If historical

or archaeological values exist, they will remain unaffected.

Table 2. Potential impacts on human environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below Or On Attached Pages
1. Social structures and cultural diversity				X		
2. Changes in existing public benefits provided by wildlife populations and/or habitat				X		
3. Local and state tax base and tax revenue				X		
4. Agricultural production				X		
5. Human health				X		
6. Quantity & distribution of community & personal income			X			6.1
7. Access to & quality of recreational activities				X		
8. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals (ordinances)				X		
9. Distribution & density of population and housing				X		
10. Demands for government services			X			10.1
11. Industrial and/or commercial activity				X		

Comments (A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided as comments.)

6.1 Purchase of feed and construction materials will generate some profits to area businesses.

10.1 Both the game bird farm and the shooting preserve application processes require an EA and review by FWP employees and contract personnel. Initial and periodic follow-up inspections will be required for game farms by an FWP game warden.

Does the proposed action involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely harmful if they were to occur? NO

Does the proposed action have impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant? NO

Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action when alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider.

Include a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:

Land use would remain the same. There would be no danger of diseases or gene pool alteration from introduced birds. No additional profits would be generated and no additional demands would be placed on state government.

List proposed mitigative measures (stipulations) for license: NONE

Individuals or groups contributing to, or commenting on, this EA: NONE

EA prepared by: GENE R. HICKMAN

Date Completed: December 30, 1998

PART 3. DECISION

Recommendation and justification concerning preparation of EIS: No EIS required.

Describe public involvement, if any: None

DECISION NOTICE

All of the pertinent or potential impacts of the project have been reviewed, discussed, and analyzed. Due to minor nature and insignificant effects of the proposed action, this will be considered the final version of the environmental assessment. It is my decision to approve the Game Bird Farm as proposed.

Recommendation for license approval:

Joel Peterson
Wildlife Manager

1-19-99
Date

James Kuyper
Warden Captain

1-19-99
Date

HAHN GAME BIRD FARM - Chukar Pen

100'

Picture # 2

Sides and entire perimeter walls are composed of "big bales" (4'x8') of straw. Walls are two bales high (8') with a third bale holding down top mesh. Top mesh is 1" nylon with 15' center poles.

Gate is 4'x7' plywood. Bottom side of gate is 2"x4" with 1" buried chicken wire.

Picture #1

117'

Gate

145'

Gate

Picture #5

Gate is 6'x8', framed
2"x4" covered with 1"
chicken wire. Sile is
2"x4" with 1" buried
chicken wire

Pheasant Pen #1

Pheasant Pen #2

Quail Pen

HAHN GAME BIRD
FARM

Exterior sides of all
pens 1" chicken wire
buried 2' in gravel.
Posts are 6'x 8"
spaced 12' apart. Top
is 1" nylon mesh
supported on 15'
center poles.

Center divider-
between pens #1 & #2
is 1" square plastic
mesh.

Gate is plywood

Gate

45' Picture #4

Gate is 6'x8',
framed 2"x4" covered
with 1" chicken
wire. Sile is 2"x4"
with 1" buried
chicken wire

Gate

Picture #3

147'

10